

Environmental quality and shelter certification

The list of criteria needed for mountain shelters to secure the industry-certified quality label was agreed on 7 October 1994 by the managing committee of the Austrian Alpine Club, the OEAV, and on 10-11 November 1995 by its German counterpart, the DAV. They are listed below:

1 Energy

1.1 Energy Savings

- Install appropriate thermal insulation;
- Use energy-saving light bulbs;
- Enforce weight limits for certain installations;
- Provide sufficient isolation for plumbing and for heating equipment;
- Couple thermal and other energy sources.

1.2 Energy Sources

- Favour sustainable energies (water, solar, wind, bio-mass, vegetable oils);
- If diesel fuel power source is not avoidable, ensure the availability of reservoirs and surplus-handling disposal systems;
- Arrange for regular maintenance of equipment (to be registered in a formal record book).

2 Drinkable / used Water

2.1 Water savings

- Equip all relevant installations (showers, sinks, toilets, etc...) with water consumption reduction devices;
- Equip relevant installations with water meters and provide for regular check-ups and formal recording thereof;
- Install purifying filters;

2.2 Pollutants Reduction

- Use "green" cleaning products;
- Prohibit chemically-based products to clear plumbing;
- Install environment-friendly waste bins in women toilets (with corresponding information notice);
- Promote the use of sleeping bags provided on-site;
- Enforce a regular maintenance schedules for grease-skimming devices and for residual waters purification equipment;

3 Waste

3.1 General Remarks

- No packaging for small food purchases;
- No use of disposable packaging (cans specifically);
- Use products with little packaging;
- Use recycled paper or Chlorine-free paper (in toilets, for instance);
- Provide smaller portion options for children and the elderly.

3.2 Waste Management

- Provide facilities for recycling (organic waste, paper/cardboard, metal, glass, plastic);
- Collect used cooking oil and dispose of it in pre-arranged locations;
- Collect dangerous products for pre-arranged disposal (batteries, electrical wiring, medicine);
- Refrain from burning waste, in or around the Shelter;
- Use compost method for organic and mineral waste disposal (or use as animal feed);
- Dispose of furniture and/or installations in certified locations or with antique shops.

4 Air Quality

- Smoke-free policy in the shelter;
- Regular check-ups for all air conduits and fanning systems;
- Where energy is diesel-based, install dust/smoke filters.
- Use HCFC-free aerosols.
- Use "green" paint and solid-wood furniture; no furniture made of synthetic wood materials.

5 Shelter Surroundings

- All-clean policy in a 200-meter radius around the shelter (particularly concerning casual litter);
- Complete pedestrian zone around the shelter (provide a garage for the shelter manager);
- Sale of regional products and of traditional foods.

6 Noise Pollution

- Impose a silence-rule in the Shelter;
- Set up noise-reduction devices for relevant installation (power source for instance);
- Use noise-reduction material in the Shelter (between rooms, for instance).

7 Information (cf. N. Morelle, Hütten der Alpen, p. 39-50)

7.1 For visitors, to be posted by the Shelter manager or other responsible official (pictograms and information in various languages if necessary) on the following topics :

- Energy saving and water consumption reduction measures;
- Appropriate use of bath-room facilities
- Silence rule
- Animal and plant protection in the Alps

An area must be reserved in each shelter for the information presented above. It will have to present at least :

- 5m² of panels supporting written documentation.
- an interactive terminal covering one of the subjects stated in item 7.1.

7.2 Staff Training

To secure the industry-certified quality label, candidates must also meet all applicable regional and national regulations. In cases of new investments, it is imperative that the latest technology in supply and disposal management systems be used.